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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

**O'BRIEN**

Atty Ref.

**540-320**

Serial No. **10/052,107**

Group:

Filed: **January 17, 2002**

Examiner:

For: **IMPROVEMENTS IN ATM DATA  
TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS**

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May 21, 2002

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

✓ Please cancel without prejudice claims 7 and 9 and amend claim 8 as follows. Please substitute the following amended claim for corresponding claim previously presented. A copy of the amended claim showing current revisions is attached.

21 8. (Amended) An apparatus adapted for hardening ATM cells in accordance with the method of claim 1.